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D. Shone

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| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING | | | |
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date: <u>June 17, 1999</u> | | | |
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| AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111 Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 | Attorney Docket | OLIG-0004 |
| | First Named Inventor | Roderic M.K. Dale et al. |
| | Application Number | 09/223,957 |
| | Filing Date | December 31, 1998 |
| | Group Art Unit | 1623 |
| | Examiner Name | G. Kunz |
| | Title | Method for Nucleic Acid Preparation |

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated March 17, 1999 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before June 17, 1999. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 5, and amend claims 1, 6 and 7 as follows. The remaining claims are reiterated below for the Examiner's convenience.

- Sub*
1. (Amended) A method of desalting and concentrating a nucleic acid within a sample, said method comprising the steps of:
- subjecting a sample comprised of a nucleic acid to anion exchange purification to obtain a purified sample;
 - contacting the purified sample with a binding medium comprising a strongly hydrophobic base matrix;
 - rinsing the binding medium with an unbuffered aqueous solution; and
 - eluting the nucleic acid with a non-toxic aqueous organic solvent.
- A*